

Avery amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members, I rise in opposition to the Avery amendment and in support of the bill. I'm not a member of the Executive Board. I am a member of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee, so I'm actually going to support doing away with the statutes that deal with the committee I've served on now for a number of years, so I have no vested interest, in fact, I would have an interest if I looked at it that way of opposing this. But I think over the years I've seen the committee function and it has served its purpose but I see no reason why we can't serve that purpose through the Executive Board. I also know that the other statutory references here dealing with Governor's Committee and the Nebraska Commission on Intergovernmental Cooperation haven't been around, haven't functioned since I've been in the Legislature, that's 17 years. I asked Senator Warner, Senator Warner says he doesn't remember and that goes back about 100 years I think, so I can't recall of any time recently that we've had any activity in that regard. And I also want to follow up on Senator Chambers' comments on ALEC because it sounds very similar in some ways to an experience I had. I went to an ALEC meeting, too, back in the mid-1980s with a delegation from Nebraska. I remember Arlene Nelson and Carson Rogers and I can't remember who else came from Nebraska. We went back to Milwaukee and what we found out was that there was sort of an agenda and a conclusion we were supposed to reach that was presented to us before we even started this session dealing with economic development initiatives, and we thought, well, don't you reach the conclusions after you discuss and examine the issue? And so we got a little ornery and objected and became a minority voice at this meeting and I think between the experiences of Senator Chambers and this delegation that went back when I was back there, I'm wondering why ALEC would want us to be part of their organization anyway. We seem to be, as Nebraskans, independent and outspoken, so I think... I remember when we came back Rex Haberman came over who had sent us there and said, what all did you do there because ALEC called and wanted to know who you were and why I sent you. So we have caused some consternation in the past, at least with that organization. In any event, I think getting rid of this out of the statute makes sense. If they haven't functioned in terms of these other commissions and whatever all these years, why keep